

The Daily Oregonian.

THURSDAY MORNING, FEB. 29, 1884.

A VAST SCHEME OF LAND ROBBERY.

In the past 15 years not a few have been passed by our legislature which can not be accounted for the selection and sale of swamp and overflow lands belonging to the state of Oregon. "The act was proposed and followed through the legislature by one of the corps of jobbers and robbers always in evidence during our legislative sessions. Honest people protested against this vein. In vain it was shown that the bill was destined to open and establish a gigantic scheme of corruption and robbery. The bill had the support of the corrupt, dozy administration, which was laying hands on everything within sight and reach, and it became a law.

"The swamp land plot," dependent in advance by *The Oregonian* and supported by every honest man who foresees the likelihood of it, has become a steal indeed, and is still being "worn" with great success. By the terms of this act the lands were to be sold at one dollar per acre, twenty percent of the purchase-money to be paid within ninety days after the date of public notice of selection of said lands in any county—and selections to be made by the governor—and the remainder of the money ten years thereafter. Any person desiring to purchase and was authorized to file his application therefor, and no limit was set to the amount of lands to be sold to any one purchaser. Under this act applications were filed for millions of acres. The things covered enormous tracts which never could be rightly claimed as swamp lands, will be the lands really left under the original selection, a large tract of which were of great value, were taken possession of on a prior date, and a distant time a mere nominal sum for the same.

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But this is by no means the whole extent of Owen's operations. Additional selections covered by his filings to the amount of nearly 150,000 acres in Grant and Lake counties, have recently been approved by the general government, and during October and November last he received from the state authorities certificates of title to himself of these vast tracts of land. Ankney is not now in the state but it may be presumed that he aided Owen in securing the approval of these selections at the general land office, and that Owen had bribed him, as far as he did on the former occasion. Probably these selections will go on. Owen gets all the millions of acres covered by his filings. It is understood that great syndicates of land jobbers in California are furnishing the money for his recent and present operations.

The action of the state authorities likewise provokes criticism. The original swamp land act, passed in 1870, was repealed in 1878. A new act was passed which provides that no more than 2000 acres shall be sold to any one purchaser. Yet Owen is permitted, in the strength of his old filings made during the year ago, to have these lands put up for sale, and as the success of the whole transaction depended on approval of the selections by the general land office, Ankney's report on the lands became a matter of highest value. The practice is the same as that at which the early abolitionists had extensive experience, and the man who wants to organize an opposition party in a southern state is a "dangerous" man who, twelve years ago, spoke against slavery. As regards "Owen," there is this difference, that since they are no longer "property," they are sold more freely than then. The committee might be asked to think of this: "How am I related to the disease of undercivilization, and what are my obligations to the age to come respecting the transmission of a pure and happy life?"

During the past year private robbery has given over a quarter of a million dollars toward education. Of the sum expended at Hampton, Va., where General Armstrong has given education to 109 students, the total cost for the year was \$123,000, 27, of which the government paid \$52,170 22, and private charity gave \$80,426 35. The government has at last awakened to its duties toward Indian wards, and is making some effort to educate them. It costs \$1,000,000 to kill an Indian, but only \$17 a year to educate one. There are now in the various schools 15,000 young Indians and over 6500 of them in boarding schools, where linguistic training fits them for self-supporting influence when they return to their tribes.

A large meeting of the New England milk dealers was recently held in Boston, to take measures for the protection of the health of the milk in the city. The present condition of the trade in Boston and vicinity shows that the produce goes for less than half of what it consumes pays. The total cost of the milk supply of Boston is about \$3,500,000 a year, of which the producer receives about \$3,000,000. The producer ought to receive at least three-fourths. The producers of Orange county, New York, have, after a desperate struggle, freed themselves from the shackles of the mid-milk.

CAMPAIGN LITERATURE.

There can be no doubt that much money is wasted in political campaigns in the case of men who are known as "ambitionaries." A vast amount of such literature in the form of pamphlets, posters, and banners is distributed to voters by partisan agencies. But the very fact that they are sent out to cover the ends of a party has a repellent effect upon the independent and uninvolved minds who it is desired to influence, and a sense of publicity injures the impression of even the most moderate and moderate arguments. In other words, honest people protest against this vein. In vain it was shown that the bill was destined to open and establish a gigantic scheme of corruption and robbery. The bill had the support of the corrupt, dozy administration, which was laying hands on everything within sight and reach, and it became a law.

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